



Counties and individual commissioners across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively, CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

December 7, 2017

TO: FCC Commissioners

FROM: Tim Mauck and Rachel Richards, Co-Chairs, on behalf of CCAT Members

RE: Proceeding 17-108

Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT) opposes any repeal or softening of current regulations requiring net neutrality.

As locally elected county officials engaging daily in our communities, we know these regulations provide important protections for consumers, especially in rural areas. Without them, broadband companies can charge certain users more and block or slow access to some websites while favoring others. This could significantly impact businesses, government, education and schools, researchers, health service providers and hospitals, social media, and e-commerce.

Local governments provide a host of services and information to their citizens, and must have high speed secure connections for sensitive data being transmitted from our clerks, treasurers, assessors, and election personnel. In addition, in some areas, local governments provide internet access to their citizens. Any increased cost to maintain the service speeds necessary to conduct our work would ultimately be borne by taxpayers, thus having public dollars subsidizing the private sector.

The loss of net neutrality regulations will make the internet more exclusive, expensive, and less accessible. Many Colorado counties already struggle with the "broadband divide" – there are relatively few broadband providers, especially in rural areas where some counties have large gaps of internet access.

CCAT members are concerned with the public comment process for these proceedings thus far, and would request that regional public hearings be held across Colorado to understand the local impact of the proposed policy change. Given the cost burden that may fall to local governments CCAT members feel it is important to gather information from the affected communities and constituencies. Information gleaned from these regional public hearings can be used to best inform the policy changes at hand.

CCAT Commissioners thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this request, and stand at the ready to assist with local community conversations.

Sincerely,

Tim Mauck - Co-Chair, CCAT
Commissioner of Clear Creek County

Rachel Richards - Co-Chair, CCAT
Commissioner of Pitkin County



*For more information on these or other CCAT issues, please contact Aponte & Busam Public Affairs
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